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POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES INVOLVING YOUTH

Policies and programmes involving young people: Participation, development, peace

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	2
II.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	4 - 15	2
III.	GLOBAL ACTIONS TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND	16 - 25	5
IV.	ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER PLANNING AND SUITABLE FOLLOW-UP IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH	26 - 30	6
V.	ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA	31 - 44	8
VI.	YOUTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	45 - 52	13
VII.	CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS	53 - 59	14
VIII.	INSTITUTE OF HOPE '87	60 - 64	16
IX.	EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE PROMOTION AMONG YOUTH OF THE IDEALS OF PEACE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES	65 - 72	17

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 40/14 of 18 November 1985, endorsed the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth (A/40/256, annex). During its forty-first to forty-fourth sessions, the Assembly reviewed the implementation of the Guidelines.

2. On 8 December 1988, the Assembly adopted resolution 43/136 on the evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples (resolution 2037 (XX) of 7 December 1965) and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the matter to it at its forty-fifth session. On 8 December 1989, it adopted resolution 44/59 on policies and programmes involving youth and decided to consider that item at its forty-fifth session on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General.

3. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 43/136 and 44/59. It is based on available data and information received from Member States, United Nations bodies and agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Follow-up activities to the International Youth Year are continuing at all levels, encouraged by the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. Initiatives have included incorporating skill training in out-of-school programmes, identifying needs of sub-categories of youth, reviewing existing legislation and assessing various governmental and non-governmental youth-related programmes. There has been an increase in the number of national youth organizations. Two basic features of the follow-up period at the national level are enhanced efforts to formulate and implement integrated national youth policies and programmes and the increasing recognition of the vital role of national co-ordination mechanisms in youth policy development.

5. Despite serious resource constraints, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna has continued to provide Governments with policy guidance and information, technical expertise and direct operational support in order to enhance national capacities. The Centre has also been active in strengthening co-ordination efforts, both within and outside the United Nations system.

6. The regional commissions and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, have assisted Member States in formulating, implementing and evaluating national youth policies, with particular emphasis on research, policy analysis, infrastructural development and identifying priority areas and emerging issues.

7. Inter-agency co-operation has concentrated on assistance to national co-ordination mechanisms, encouraging the implementation of technical assistance field level projects and exploring ways and means to promote joint actions within the context of the guidelines.

8. Concerned non-governmental organizations have worked with Governments on the development of youth policies, often through participation in national mechanisms. They continue to provide Governments with information, training expertise and research findings, thus drawing attention to salient issues and programmes.

9. Despite many achievements, numerous problems persist in the development of effective youth policies and programmes at all levels. Some of these problems were analysed in recent reports of the Secretary-General, (see A/43/601 and A/44/387). Additional obstacles are mentioned below.

10. To date, national co-ordination mechanisms on youth have achieved limited results in programming and implementation. During International Youth Year, they were established for the principal purpose of preparing for and observing the Year. Once the Year ended, however, some were disbanded. Not emphasized adequately was their important role in securing the effective integration of youth policy into national development planning and enhancing the channels of communication between youth, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

11. At the regional level, human and financial constraints have prevented the regional commissions from expanding their role as clearing houses for information on youth or undertaking regular reviews of the progress achieved in the implementation of the regional plans of action on youth. Further, research and technical co-operation activities have decreased considerably.

12. At the international level, inter-agency efforts aiming at ensuring continued advocacy for youth concerns have been hampered by the lack of resources. Inter-agency co-operation with regard to technical assistance to operational projects and co-operation between the United Nations system and the non-governmental organizations sector have not increased sufficiently.

13. While youth-related activities are continuing at the national level, concern has been expressed that the momentum created by the Year and the impetus to sustain follow-up activities have been declining at the international and regional levels. In order to stimulate renewed action at all levels, the tenth anniversary, in 1995, of the Year, presents a suitable occasion to focus global attention again on youth issues, particularly in light of the changing international political and economic situations and the effects of those changes on youth and youth-serving organizations.

14. In view of the above and in light of the need to determine future priorities and needs, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to elaborate, with the active participation of youth, national youth policies that are fully integrated into the overall national planning framework on a cross-sectoral basis;

(b) National youth co-ordinating committees or similar mechanisms should be requested to prepare profiles of youth by category and priority issue, using both qualitative and quantitative data;

(c) Academic institutions and research centres should co-operate with national youth committees and similar co-ordinating mechanisms for the preparation of such profiles and action-oriented studies on emerging youth trends and issues in the 1990s and beyond;

(d) Governments should be encouraged to develop a programme of action with regard to the tenth anniversary of the Year based upon an in-depth evaluation of the situation and needs of youth and an identification of future strategies for the year 2000 and beyond;

(e) The regional commissions, together with regional youth and youth-serving organizations, should be requested to consider the possibility of undertaking a comprehensive review of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the region since 1985, taking into account the implementation of the guidelines and regional plans of action in relation to the tenth anniversary of the Year for the purpose of preparing a regional youth strategy for the year 2000 and beyond;

(f) The international preparatory work on the draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the Year should be based on recommendations of regional and national programmes of action;

(g) An inventory should be prepared on the youth-related projects and activities of the United Nations system and of youth organizations at global, regional and national levels, with a view to identifying priority areas for joint action. The inventory may be prepared in close co-operation with the Inter-Agency Working Group at the Technical Level in the field of Youth and with concerned non-governmental youth organizations;

(h) Pursuant to paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 44/59, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was mandated to convene in 1990 a meeting, if necessary from extrabudgetary resources, between United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies concerned and non-governmental youth organizations to discuss the problems of existing channels of communications between the United Nations system and youth organizations. The aim of the meeting is to achieve effective results for the improvement of existing channels of communication and for the establishment of effective functioning structures of communication and co-operation between youth and the United Nations. Owing to financial constraints and to permit more time for preparations, the meeting has had to be rescheduled for 1991. It is recommended that the meeting focus on how non-governmental organizations could co-operate in preparing for the tenth anniversary of the Year;

(i) There is an urgent need to revitalize the resource base of the United Nations Youth Fund by attracting increased contributions from both governmental and non-governmental donors. This is especially important in view of the present resource problems confronting the Fund and the need for new ideas for joint youth projects in view of the tenth anniversary of Year and the fiftieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations (1995).

15. As indicated by the continued low response of Member States to questionnaires on measures taken to implement international standards on and for youth (see sects. IV and IX below), it is the view of the Secretary-General that time and resources would be better spent in designing, implementing and evaluating projects based on the criteria established by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/59.

III. GLOBAL ACTIONS TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

16. The current international climate is characterized by progress in diminishing international tensions, reduced ideological confrontation and increased international co-operation. This climate promises to alter the landscape of the youth question and open up new vistas for action at all levels. For example, at the national level, allocation of resources can be transferred for social planning purposes and at the international level youth exchanges between East-West can be reinforced and transnational co-operation in crucial areas increased.

17. Drug abuse continues to be a major problem of young people since they are not only victims but, in many instances, carriers and distributors of illicit drugs. Efforts, ranging from education and prevention to the provision of direct treatment and rehabilitation services, have not been adequate.

18. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has become a major concern of youth. It is rising sharply among this population group, and AIDS prevention and control measures often have not been sufficiently geared to the needs of youth.

19. Environmental concerns have increased since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment held at Stockholm. The issue, particularly the integration of environmental and developmental concerns, affects young people who have a stake in a sustainable and environmentally sound habitat.

20. The changing international climate and the continuing search for concrete solutions to salient and emerging youth issues calls for new approaches towards youth policy development at all levels.

21. At the international level, youth concerns have been placed on the agenda of various United Nations legislative bodies for the 1990s. The 1990 International Literacy Year identified out-of-school youth as a target group in the struggle against illiteracy. The Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Havana from 27 August to 7 September 1990, discussed the topic of juvenile delinquency. The situation of young women will be discussed under the priority theme "Equality" at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, scheduled for February 1991. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled for 1992 in Brazil, will consider, inter alia, the role of non-governmental organizations, including youth-related organizations in maintaining the quality of the Earth's environment. The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family, where youth concerns will be an important aspect.

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22. In addition, the issue of youth will continue to be discussed from regional perspectives, by several of the regional commissions, and from sectoral perspectives, by legislative bodies (such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Governing Council, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Board, the International Labour Conference, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conferences and the World Health Assembly).

23. The Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-first session in 1989, decided to give priority attention, at its thirty-second session in 1991, to the question of the integration of young people into society. An international symposium on this topic (Toledo, Spain, 4-8 June 1990) was held to facilitate the effective preparation for this discussion by the Commission (see para. 38). On the basis of the outcome, the Secretary-General will prepare a working document for consideration by the Commission at its thirty-second session of its priority topic: the integration of young people into society.

24. In its resolution 1989/51, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-third session in 1993, to prepare a draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the Year and to identify future strategies. That request was reiterated by the General Assembly in paragraph 16 of its resolution 44/59. Accordingly, the draft programme will be submitted through the Commission and the Council to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

25. Its basic objectives will be (a) to evaluate, at all levels, the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the guidelines, (b) to identify future strategies, with a view to refining the concept and practice of long-term planning on youth for the year 2000 and beyond, (c) to evaluate, at the national level, youth policies and select realistic targets for the year 2000 and beyond, and (d) to revise the guidelines and regional plans of action on youth with a view to adapting them to the changing situation and needs of youth. On that basis a refined global strategy on youth for the year 2000 and beyond could be adopted.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER PLANNING AND SUITABLE FOLLOW-UP IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH

26. In January 1990, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Governments of Member States, requesting information on their activities and current trends in implementing the guidelines and in integrating young people into social and professional life. Some 24 Member States responded to the note verbale. Those States included Australia, Austria, Burkina Faso, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Ireland, Jamaica, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, the Philippines, Rwanda, Somalia, Thailand, Turkey, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is the

view of the Secretary-General that such a limited response from Member States not only questions the amount of time and resources allocated for that exercise, but raises the overall question of the utility of future such questionnaires to Member States.

27. Several Governments stressed the importance of and the need for an integrated national youth policy in line with the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. In this regard, Governments underlined their commitment to promoting the active and effective participation of youth in the political, economic and cultural life of society as an essential objective of youth policy. For example, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic formulated a Republic-wide programme entitled "Youth", which provided a comprehensive approach to solving basic youth problems and sought youth participation in the socio-economic restructuring of society along democratic lines. Ecuador has included a youth section in its national development plan. In Finland, a new Youth Policy Programme of Action is under preparation and focuses on young people's subsistence and housing, quality of work and legal status. In the Philippines, government agencies and youth organizations have collaborated to formulate a National Youth Development Plan in conformity with the guidelines. In Thailand, the Five-Year Children and Youth Development Plan has been formulated and integrated in the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1987-1991). Turkey has included youth policies in its Five-Year Development Plan (1990-1994).

28. Several Governments have set up institutional structures to assist in formulating and implementing national and local youth programmes and activities, either by maintaining their national co-ordinating committees by reallocating to existing ministries, councils, secretariats and offices the responsibility for follow-up action to the Year and long-term planning on youth-related issues or by setting up new co-ordination mechanisms. For example, in Burkina Faso, young people participate in national development programmes through the National People's Service. In Ecuador, the National Directorate of Youth within the Ministry for Social Welfare is responsible for integrating youth policy into the national development plan. In Greece, the General Secretariat of Youth implements youth policies and programmes for the five-year period 1988-1992. In Jamaica, the National Youth Council, an independent non-partisan organization, acts as a forum for the articulation of all youth matters. In the Netherlands, interministerial harmonization of the national youth policy takes place in the Intersectoral Youth Policy Committee. The Government also supports projects aimed at achieving "local integrated youth policy" from a local, regional and provincial perspective. In New Zealand, the Office of Youth Affairs is responsible for youth policy development. In the Philippines, the Presidential Council for Youth Affairs is responsible for policy and programme formulation and implementation. In Thailand, the National Youth Bureau within the Office of the Prime Minister is the central agency for the formulation, co-ordination, monitoring and implementation of the national youth policy.

29. In some countries, youth affairs are decentralized. For example, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom Youth Service is a kaleidoscope of bodies responding to a variety of needs: apart from a small statutory youth service based in local authorities, there is a wide range of

voluntary youth provision, from large organizations with a national structure to very small local organizations. In several countries, the important contribution of non-governmental organizations in promoting active youth participation in all spheres of life, including decision-making, is widely recognized. In this respect, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic is undertaking a study on foreign experiences regarding the relationships between youth organizations and State institutions for incorporation into its national youth policy. In several countries, non-governmental organizations also receive governmental funding in support of their youth-related activities and services.

30. Education, training and employment have remained high priority issues. Among the responding countries, many have increased efforts to gear the educational system towards the needs of the labour market by improving informal educational services and by providing vocational training programmes. Employment schemes for school-leavers or unemployed youth have been set up by many countries. Several Governments have improved social services for young people, including information and counselling, while others have promoted active youth participation in culture, sports, youth exchange and leisure-time activities. Some Governments have also increased efforts to integrate disadvantaged and marginal groups of youth, notably young women, ethnic minorities, juvenile delinquents and young people with disabilities, into the mainstream of life and to facilitate their full participation in society. The struggle against drug and alcohol abuse among young people has been intensified by various countries.

V. ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

31. As the substantive secretariat on youth for the concerned United Nations legislative bodies, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna has encouraged a dialogue with Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the need for a co-ordinated and cross-sectoral approach to youth policies and programmes at national, regional and global levels. During the past year, it organized four meetings on youth policies and programmes: (a) a Consultative Meeting on Interregional, Regional and National Co-ordination for Integrated Youth Policies and Programmes (in co-operation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which was held at Pattaya, Thailand, from 2 to 5 November, 1989); (b) an International Meeting on Establishment and Development of National Machineries for Youth (jointly with the Department for Technical Co-operation and Development of the Secretariat and in co-operation with ESCAP, which was held at Bangkok from 8 to 12 November 1989); (c) the seventh meeting of the United Nations informal inter-agency working group at the technical level on youth (in co-operation with FAO, ILO, UNESCO, the United Nations Volunteers programme, UNICEF and WHO, which was held at Vienna on 4 and 5 December 1989); and (d) an International Symposium on the Integration of Young People into Society (in close co-operation with the Youth Institute, Ministry for Social Affairs of Spain, held at Toledo, Spain, from 4 to 8 June 1990).

32. The Consultative Meeting held at Pattaya was attended by representatives of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), the League of Arab States (LAS), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of American States (OAS), ESCAP, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Its major objective was to enhance the capacities of interregional and regional organizations for effective planning and co-ordination of activities, particularly information exchange, applied research and technical co-operation. The meeting reviewed the progress achieved in co-operation and co-ordination within and outside the United Nations system and formulated recommendations for further action.

33. The Bangkok meeting was attended by senior decision-makers, scholars and practitioners from 20 developing countries. Its basic objective was to assist developing countries to establish and strengthen national capacities and institutional structures for youth. The meeting adopted guidelines for the establishment and development of national co-ordination structures, which addressed the central role of an appropriate policy framework for co-ordination related to youth development and set forth a strategic perspective on the establishment and development of appropriate mechanisms.

34. The Vienna meeting was attended by substantive officers responsible for the youth programmes of FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The Centre is the co-ordinator of the United Nations informal inter-agency working group at the technical level on youth. The group contributed to the follow-up of the Year (see A/41/578, A/42/595, A/43/601 and A/44/387). The meeting reviewed progress achieved in the implementation of the Guidelines, ways of strengthening national co-ordination mechanisms for youth, and co-operation with non-governmental organizations at the field level. It was decided to publish an information leaflet on the youth-related activities of and services provided by concerned United Nations agencies and bodies. The group also plans to analyse resolutions on youth emanating from the governing bodies of the member agencies to determine priorities of Member States.

35. The Toledo Symposium was attended by 27 experts representing 20 countries that are current members of the Commission for Social Development, resource persons from ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA, and observers from UNESCO and UNICEF and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It reviewed the concepts concerning young people's integration into society and analysed issues and problems encountered in the integration process. Salient recommendations focused on ensuring access of young people to the means for productive work, creating innovative schemes for income-generating opportunities, ensuring that educational systems better reflect current socio-economic and cultural realities, and developing and strengthening prevention and rehabilitation services for young people in areas of drug and alcohol abuse as well as AIDS. It was recommended that the draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the Year should identify future strategies and refine the concept and practice of analysis, long-term planning and implementation of youth policies at all levels for the year 2000 and beyond.

36. Through those four meetings in 1989-1990, the United Nations youth programme co-ordinated activities to strengthen existing global, regional and national machinery for the advancement of youth. In addition, through its periodical publications, such as the "United Nations Youth Information Bulletin" (three times per year), the "IYY Newsletter" (quarterly) and its directories (such as a recent one on international non-governmental youth organizations), the programme publicized youth policies and programmes on a global scale. Decisions of relevant meetings organized during the reporting period were also disseminated to national co-ordination mechanisms, interested non-governmental organizations and concerned United Nations agencies and bodies. As a sponsor of action-oriented research and studies, the programme has helped to identify needs and emerging trends in the global response to youth. It conducted a study on marginal youth, and initiated a study on the situation of youth in the 1990s. It co-operates with selected research centres for studies on specific youth issues and publishes a Directory of Centres and Institutes Engaged in Youth Research. Through the services of an interregional advisor, provided by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, advisory services were provided to Member States to strengthen youth policies and programmes at the national level.

United Nations Youth Fund

37. The United Nations Youth Fund plays a catalytic role to further the implementation of the development objectives of the guidelines. Since its inception, the Fund has provided $352,445 in seed-money grants for 48 small-scale catalytic and innovative projects in the field of youth. The majority (77 per cent) were implemented in developing countries and were devoted to strengthening national capacities to deal with youth-related issues.

38. During the period from January 1989 to June 1990, the Fund received many more requests for financial assistance than it could support. Only seven requests were approved for funding, involving disbursement of $38,000. This decrease in disbursements was due to the considerable constraints imposed by the Fund's diminished resource base. Data collection and applied research, a prerequisite activity for the development of youth policies, strategies and programmes, and training were the main activities, accounting for some two thirds of the resources disbursed and projects supported. Technical exchange of knowledge and experience and income-generating projects were the other priority activities.

39. The Fund provided modest but critically needed support by reinforcing specific youth-related concerns in large-scale development plans of developing countries, enhancing awareness of youth issues at the grass-roots, national and international levels and complementing larger-scale development projects by providing seed-money grants for small-scale activities.

40. For instance, in the Comoros the Fund co-operated with UNDP and the United Nations Volunteers programme in a project concerned with integrating youth in the socio-economic development of the country; in Colombia it supported a youth organization to train rural youth in farming to enhance their self-employment opportunities, and in Somalia the Fund supported a national seminar on youth policies and programmes to reinforce youth-related components of a large-scale

UNDP-financed social development project. The Fund is co-operating with ECLAC in a research project focusing on the situation of youth in the socio-economic development of the countries in the region. The Fund also provided financial assistance for a study on the impact of drug abuse among youth in Western Asia, being carried out by ESCWA, and for a conference on youth and drugs organized by the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

41. Beside providing direct funding assistance and raising awareness on youth-related issues, the Fund has played an important role in mobilizing additional resources in activities of benefit to young people. During the period from January 1989 to June 1990, for instance, by providing $38,000 in co-financing or seed-money grants, the Fund helped the recipients of those grants in the mobilization and expenditure of over $150,000 in youth-related projects and activities.

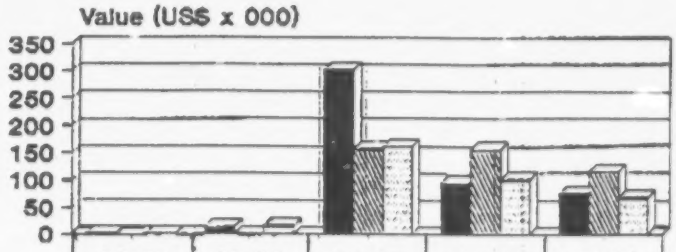
42. The Fund continues to suffer from financial constraints. As a result, many requests, particularly those coming from the least-developed countries, as well as non-governmental and youth organizations, remain unmet. The contributions to the Fund have continued to decline as against an increasing number of requests; expenditures, even though modest, have continued to exceed income, particularly since 1986 as presented in the following chart.

43. The Fund participated, for the first time since its establishment, in the United Nations Pledging Conference in 1989. Regrettably, only one Government, that of Greece, pledged a contribution to the Fund. Subsequent to the Pledging Conference, Austria made a contribution to the Fund.

44. As at 31 December 1989, the balance of the Fund was a meagre $68,681 as against many pending requests whose combined need for financial assistance is several times greater. In the light of the significant role that the Fund has been playing despite its limited resources, it is important to strengthen its resources base so that it can respond more effectively to the requests of many developing countries. The willingness of the international community to strengthen the Fund through financial contributions is essential if it is to sustain the interest and follow-up to the International Youth Year and assist in attaining the goals established by the General Assembly in the guidelines.

Chart. Income and expenditure of the United Nations Youth Fund: January 1980 to December 1989

(Thousands of United States dollars)



	80-81	82-83	84-85	86-87	88-89
Income	2.034	14.415	303.479	96.07	77.017
Expenditure	0	0	157.895	156.858	115.912
End biennium balance	2.034	16.449	162.033	101.245	68.681

Income Expenditure
End biennium balance

Source: UN/OPPBF; Schedules of Indl TFs
The balance at the end of 1989 includes US$ 6,331 of World Youth Assembly Medal

VI. YOUTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

45. Numerous organizations of the United Nations system have continued their youth-related activities within the context of the objectives of International Youth Year. Focus has been on research and studies, information, training, operational activities, meetings and interfacing with youth organizations.

46. Various organizations have conducted action-oriented studies on specific research topics, such as health needs of youth, needs of young women, drug abuse, AIDS, youth and the environment etc. For example, within the United Nations Secretariat, ECLAC is undertaking a study on youth and the economic crisis in Latin America: the under-utilization of human resources. ESCWA is preparing a study on drug abuse among youth in the region. Elsewhere in the United Nations system, the treatment by UNESCO of youth as a transverse theme in all its major programme areas has allowed for multi-disciplinary studies in the areas of culture, communications, science and sports. ILO is conducting research on youth employment in selected developing countries.

47. Several organizations of the United Nations system have disseminated publications, newsletters and bulletins in order to sustain and increase public awareness of youth issues. For example, UNESCO, which plans to create an international information service on youth, has recently published an "International Directory of Youth Bodies". FAO has established a communication network among rural youth programme leaders in developing countries.

48. The training of youth workers and leaders has been a major concern; special emphasis on youth leadership training has been given by WHO, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ESCAP, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the United Nations Office at Vienna. FAO focuses on the training of nationals working with rural youth. The United Nations Volunteers programme trains youth groups to act as agents of change in local communities.

49. Numerous organizations have provided advisory services to Governments with a focus on (a) developing appropriate national and local structures, (b) securing the effective integration of youth policy into national development planning and (c) assisting in project formulation to address sectoral-specific and group-specific youth issues. For example, WHO has assisted Governments in policy development, research and training for adolescent health promotion. FAO assists Governments in developing and implementing rural youth programmes.

50. Moreover, joint operational activities have been undertaken. Youth programmes and projects executed by the Volunteers programme around the globe have increased and the Governing Body of UNDP has decided that 15 per cent of the programme's special Voluntary Fund could be used for youth projects. Also, the 34 UNICEF national committees and 119 field offices have continued to promote the concept of "youth-in-service-to children" at the field level.

51. Various organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, have organized conferences and workshops to assist Governments in

developing, implementing and evaluating national youth policies and programmes. For example, ESCAP has organized meetings on adolescence and crime prevention, youth in entrepreneurship programmes, and educational reform. ECLAC is planning an inter-agency meeting of Latin American regional offices of the concerned United Nations bodies and agencies.

52. Collaboration with non-governmental youth organizations has remained a priority. WHO fosters partnership with youth organizations to increase their participation in its programmes. UNESCO organizes annually the Collective Consultation of Youth non-governmental organizations to discuss their involvement in the UNESCO work programme. UNICEF collaborates with youth organizations within the context of both its Child Survival and Development Strategy and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Youth organizations have played an important role in preparing for the World Summit for Children, which took place in September 1990.

VII. CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

53. The United Nations has long recognized the vital importance of young people, both in their ability to embrace the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and their potential to approach afresh the problems facing mankind. Young people represent the future, and the entire United Nations system has a definite stake in the future.

54. Channels of communication embody several elements: (a) structures that facilitate direct and representative consultation between youth organizations and the United Nations (for example, the Geneva Informal Meeting of International Youth Non-governmental Organizations); (b) publications issued by the United Nations that facilitate a regular and two-way flow of information between the United Nations and youth organizations (for example, the "United Nations Youth Information Bulletin"); and (c) messages transmitted through the channels on the work of the United Nations system of relevance to youth organizations and the work of youth organizations of relevance to the United Nations system.

55. Channels of communication have come under constant review by the General Assembly since 1968. Major initiatives were undertaken at all levels to strengthen the channels. During the period 1968 to 1979, Governments have included youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly, where they contributed to the deliberations on channels of communication in the Third Committee; youth structures were set up at Geneva and in New York; the "Youth Information Bulletin", a major channel of communication, was launched; extrabudgetary funds of the United Nations were allocated to increase the representation of regional youth organizations in United Nations youth meetings; missions of the United Nations Interregional Advisor on Youth Policies and Programmes focused on identifying channels at the national level; and an ad hoc advisory group on youth met during the period 1973 to 1975 to advise the Secretary-General on youth policies and programmes, including channels of communication with youth and youth organizations. The General Assembly considered and adopted guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations (resolution 32/135, annex).

56. During the period 1978 to 1985, further work was undertaken on the guidelines to incorporate comments and suggestions from Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental youth organizations. The International Youth Year opened a new phase in the growth and evolution of channels of communication. Many national youth organizations joined national co-ordination committees in over 100 countries, which provided a needed impetus to strengthen channels at the national level. Several major international non-governmental youth organizations contributed to the work of the Advisory Committee for the Year and the momentum and publicity attached to the Year resulted in a dramatic increase in channels of communication with youth and youth organizations throughout the world.

57. During the period following the Year, non-governmental organizations continued to play an important role to improve the situation of youth. Many organized meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences at all levels to foster the participation of young people in society. Consultations between the Centre and non-governmental organizations are continuing with regard to the ongoing United Nations programme on youth, the development by non-governmental organizations of programmes for the follow-up to the Year and the promotion of meetings within and outside the United Nations system. Non-governmental organizations are represented in national co-ordinating committees, have participated in the preparation and implementation of policies and programmes at all levels, and have formulated programmes for youth involvement in developing activities. Individual agencies and bodies also provide substantive support to various international non-governmental organizations and are increasing collaboration with them in specific sectoral areas.

58. For the following reasons, the improvement of the effective and efficient functioning of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations proved increasingly difficult:

(a) While the topic of channels of communication has been discussed over a 20-year period, there still is a need better to define its conceptual and operational framework;

(b) The Geneva Information Meeting of International Non-Governmental Organizations - a main channel of communication - has been hampered by financial and other resource constraints;

(c) The proliferation of consultative platforms between international youth organizations and individual organizations and agencies of the United Nations system has dispersed initiatives and resources, making information exchange more difficult and hindering the joint formulation of projects by the United Nations system and youth non-governmental organizations;

(d) The majority of national youth organizations do not directly participate in international youth platforms related to the United Nations system;

(e) Resource constraints limit the activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs;

(f) There is a lack of a joint inter-agency strategy for collaborating with youth non-governmental organizations at all levels.

59. The Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 44/59, requested the Secretary-General to develop methods that indicated specifically how the channels of communication could efficiently be attuned to youth-related projects and activities of the United Nations organs and of the specialized agencies. It also requested that the present report include concrete suggestions for co-operation between the United Nations system and the non-governmental youth organizations. The Secretary-General has made several specific recommendations on that question as noted in section II of the present report.

VIII. INSTITUTE OF HOPE '87

60. Youth unemployment is a problem of almost universal dimension. Although falling in some parts of the developed countries, youth unemployment is still alarmingly high in these countries. In the developing countries, the problems caused by the influx of young people to the employment market are far more acute. According to ILO estimates, more than 100 million new jobs would have to be created within the next 20 years in order to absorb the growing number of young people in the economically active population of developing countries. The advent of a generation without adequate skills or productive work experience could disrupt the process of renewal of the labour force and seriously jeopardize future economic growth.

61. In recognition of the problem and in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 40/16, 42/53, 43/94 and 44/59, the Government of Austria established the Institute of HOPE '87 (see A/42/595, A/43/601 and A/44/387).

62. The secretariat of the Institute of HOPE '87 (Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment), established in August 1988, promotes youth participation in income-generating activities by encouraging vocational training, appropriate educational programmes and youth employment competitions. Its budget for 1990, allocated by the Government of Austria, is S 3,000,000. The Hope-Databank, operative since September 1989, registers over 400 youth employment projects world wide. HOPE offices have been established in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. Eight more offices are planned in different regions. The secretariat recently developed contacts with Eastern Europe to establish HOPE branch offices there.

63. As follow-up to "HOPE '87", another international event, called "HOPE '90", will be held in Austria in late 1990. It will underline Austria's concern for employment among youth, especially those without adequate education and training. It will represent an effort by the Government of Austria to share with other countries, in particular developing countries, its expertise in education and vocational training. HOPE '90 will consist of three parts: an international competition to generate ideas for youth employment projects, an exhibition and a symposium on youth employment. The competition will be open to persons throughout the world between the ages of 15 and 27.

64. In compliance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 44/59, a draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Government of Austria, represented by the Institute of HOPE '87, was prepared on the basis of the relevant rules and regulations of the United Nations and within the framework of the objectives and strategy of the guidelines, taking into account the importance of that Institute for promoting income-generating youth employment projects.

IX. EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE PROMOTION AMONG YOUTH OF THE IDEALS OF PEACE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES

65. The General Assembly, in 1965, adopted the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples. In its resolution 43/136, the Assembly invited all States to submit to the Secretary-General their views and comments on the impact of the Declaration and on the measures that should be taken for its implementation and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the matter to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session. In September 1989, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to Member States, requesting them to provide their views and comments as called for by the resolution. As of 30 June 1990, 18 Member States had responded to the note verbale. Those States included Australia, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Grenada, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Rwanda, Sweden, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. As with the comments made in section IV, the Secretary-General questions the utility of distributing such questionnaires to Member States based on the meagre response of Governments to such exercise. The results are not commensurate with the efforts involved.

66. Based on the 18 replies received, the following analysis is presented. The major measures adopted by Governments for the implementation of the Declaration can be grouped into five categories: (a) educational activities; (b) promotion of opportunities for young people to exchange views and acquaint themselves with foreign cultures; (c) support to youth groups and organizations; (d) information activities; and (e) support to international efforts to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

67. Educational activities have been recognized as a major tool for the promotion among youth of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples. A few Member States have incorporated the principles of the Declaration into school curricula, textbooks and training programmes for teachers and educators. Also, measures were taken to increase the access of young people to political education. The learning of foreign languages was promoted by integrating their teaching into the school curricula and facilitating their learning outside the school. Some Governments have promoted youth participation in sports events and competitions. Another measure has been to highlight the objectives and activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the school curricula. Some Governments felt that more time and resources should be made available for peace studies in schools and that such institutions should address themselves to major international issues.

68. Student and youth exchanges have been undertaken and various Governments have established various structures and institutions to promote such exchanges. Efforts have been made to promote student and youth tourism. National, regional and international student and youth meetings, camps, seminars, competitions, artistic exhibitions and theatrical performances have also been promoted.

69. Another area related to supporting youth organizations. A number of Governments have provided youth clubs, societies and organizations with financial assistance, services and facilities, and have encouraged them to participate in anniversaries and activities of major international events. Support was also provided to national peace movements involving youth.

70. Information activities have been pursued by Governments. Youth information centres and specialized libraries for youth have been established. It was suggested that the potential of the mass media should be fully exploited and that the United Nations and other relevant organizations should seek to create data banks on youth. Information networks should be established to facilitate the effective exchange of information between governmental, non-governmental and youth organizations.

71. A few Governments have also participated in the efforts of the international community to promote the principles of the Declaration, particularly by supporting the work of international organizations. They provided financial support to youth programmes of international organizations, participated in expert meetings and facilitated co-operation between national youth organizations and relevant organizations of the United Nations system.

72. The importance of involving and consulting with young people in the decision-making processes was stressed. It was pointed out that parents had a major role in educating young people in the spirit of peace, mutual respect and international understanding. It was indicated that the language of the Declaration was difficult for young people to understand and, therefore, future documents should be easily readable. It was further pointed out that in order to realize the principles of the Declaration, the Governments, the United Nations and the international community should devote special attention to promoting international peace and security, the fair and just solution of regional conflicts and friendly relations between countries on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence and respect for State sovereignty.

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Item 35 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 14 August 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia on 15 August 1990 at La Paz concerning the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait:

> On 2 August 1990, the Government of Bolivia, by means of an official communiqué, publicly expressed its deep concern at the unfortunate events in the Persian Gulf and its strong condemnation of the occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi military forces. This statement simply reflects the feelings of the Government and people of Bolivia and their complete respect for the norms of international law which are based on the principles of rejection of the use of armed force for purposes of conquest and non-recognition of territorial occupation and annexation.
>
> Given the persistence of Iraq's posture and that country's statement regarding its complete and permanent merger with Kuwait, which is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of Bolivia expresses its total support for Security Council resolutions 660 (1990), 661 (1990) and 662 (1990); accordingly, it will adopt the measures required for their strict implementation, calling for the immediate withdrawal of the invading army and the restoration of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait.

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* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Natalio FERNANDEZ
Alternate Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Item 35 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 17 August 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement by the Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Namibia on the Kuwait-Iraq conflict, issued on 15 August 1990 (see annex), and to kindly request that it be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hinyangerwa P. ASHEEKE
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Statement dated 15 August 1990 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Namibia on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict

As a member State of the United Nations, Iraq has no right - legally, politically, morally, strategically - to have invaded and occupied the territory, the sovereign State, of Kuwait. It was a clear violation of the principles of respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of other States. Therefore, the action of Iraq being one which clearly violates the Charter of the United Nations, the rule of international law, Namibia condemns that act as an unprovoked, naked act of aggression.

We call upon Iraq to withdraw all its forces from Kuwait. We call upon the international community, at the same time, to assist Kuwait to re-establish its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. And we recognize the ruler of Kuwait as the sovereign of that friendly country.

However, while we condemn the action taken by Iraq as a naked aggression, and while we also support the action taken by the Security Council in its resolutions, we do not believe it would be in the best interest of the Middle East, the people of that region or for countries outside of that region to amass the kind of military power that we now see moving towards the Middle East.

If indeed it is being done strictly in compliance with the specific terms of the resolutions of the Security Council, we do support it, because we subscribe to the principle of mandatory sanctions against States responsible for violating international law and the Charter of the United Nations. But we do not want to be associated, by word or by action, with any undertaking that may be intended to or which might actually escalate rather than reduce tensions in the Middle East, and thus lead to confrontation and to a major world crisis.

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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 17 August 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you, enclosed herewith, the text of the official statement of the Government of Yugoslavia, issued on 17 August 1990, concerning the situation in the Gulf region.

I should be grateful if the statement would be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragoslav PEJIĆ
Ambassador

* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Statement of the Government of Yugoslavia issued on 17 August 1990

The Yugoslav Government is deeply concerned over the continued serious aggravation of the situation in the Gulf region in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Developments threaten to escalate the conflict further, with possible unforeseeable consequences even beyond this region. The international community must take every action conducive to negotiations aimed at eliminating the causes and consequences of the aggression, and thus prevent any further dangerous escalation of tensions.

As a country currently chairing the Non-Aligned Movement, Yugoslavia once again most strongly condemns the act of aggression against and annexation of Kuwait, which it considers null and void. It resolutely calls for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from the territory of Kuwait, for the respect of its sovereignty and restoration of its territorial integrity, which remains the only way to eliminate the crisis, and reaffirms its full support for the legitimate Government of Kuwait.

Yugoslavia urges the non-aligned countries to work in unison, and together with the entire international community, to overcome the existing situation. The United Nations is clearly the right framework to express international solidarity. Therefore, comprehensive action is necessary to ensure consistent implementation of Security Council resolutions 660 (1990), 661 (1990) and 662 (1990), as well as to co-ordinate all further measures in this organ of the United Nations, all the more so as, under the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

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Agenda item 101

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 7	2
II.	STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN	8 - 10	3
III.	IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/73	11 - 15	3

Annexes

I.	List of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention as at 1 August 1990	6
II.	Reservations made upon ratification from 1 August 1989 to 1 August 1990	9
III.	Objections made from 1 August 1989 to 1 August 1990	10

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and expressed the hope that the Convention would come into force at an early date. In its subsequent resolutions 35/140, 36/131, 37/64, 38/109, 39/130, 40/39, 41/108, 42/60, 43/100 and 44/73, the Assembly urged States that had not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible and requested the Secretary-General to report on the progress in this area, which has been done annually (A/35/428, A/36/295 and Add.1, A/37/349 and Add.1, A/38/378, A/39/486, A/40/623, A/41/608 and Add.1, A/42/627, A/43/605 and A/44/457).

2. In its resolution 44/73 of 8 December 1989, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention and urged them to make all possible efforts to submit their initial as well as second and subsequent reports. The Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council recognized the special relevance of these reports to the Commission's review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. 1/

3. The Assembly, having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its eighth session, 2/ endorsed the Committee's general recommendation No. 10 on activities to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, including the request that its report on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties in implementing the Convention be regularly updated. The Assembly requested that sufficient resources be provided for that purpose and, further, requested the Secretary-General to facilitate and encourage, within existing resources, the dissemination of public information relating to the Convention and the Committee.

4. By the same resolution, the Assembly supported the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority to strengthening support for the Committee. The Assembly noted the Secretary-General's proposals for full funding of the Committee and requested that the programme budget for 1990-1991 provide for attendance at all meetings of the Committee by appropriate professional and secretarial staff as well as for necessary facilities for the effective functioning of the Committee.

5. The Commission on the Status of Women, by its resolution 34/6 and the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1990/17, shared the view of the Assembly on strengthening technical and substantive support for the Committee. The Commission further supported the request of the Committee for additional secretariat resources in order to provide for the analysis of texts of intergovernmental bodies and committees of experts to assist the Committee.

6. The Assembly encouraged the Committee to rationalize its procedures, to expedite the consideration of periodic reports and to develop procedures and

guidelines for the consideration of second reports. It also endorsed the proposal made by the Committee to convene a working group to meet for three to five days prior to the ninth session of the Committee to prepare issues and questions relating to the second and subsequent periodic reports of the States parties to be considered at the ninth session of the Committee, and invited the Secretary-General to take the necessary action. The Commission on the Status of Women, in its resolution 34/6, urged that this practice be continued, within the regular budget allocations.

7. In paragraph 15 of its resolution 44/73, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the resolution and to transmit the report, and that of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session for information.

II. STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

8. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 1 March 1980 and, in accordance with its article 27, entered into force on 3 September 1981.

9. As at 1 August 1990, 96 countries had signed the Convention, 82 States had ratified it and 21 States had acceded to it, bringing the total number of ratifications and accessions to 103. Since the last progress report, dated 18 August 1989 (A/44/457), Belize, Bolivia, Chile and Trinidad and Tobago have become parties to the Convention.

10. The complete list of States that have signed and ratified or acceded to the Convention, as well as the dates of their signatures and the dates of receipt of the instruments of ratification or accession, is contained in annex I to the present report. Reservations made upon ratification are contained in annex II and objections to reservations are contained in annex III.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/73

11. With regard to paragraphs 6 and 13 of General Assembly resolution 44/73, further activities to those described in the Secretary-General's report (A/44/457) were undertaken to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention and to facilitate and encourage the dissemination of public information relating to the Convention and the Committee.

12. The tenth anniversary special information kit produced by the Department of Public Information was distributed widely to non-governmental organizations and the media in 1989. Two sales publications, entitled The Work of CEDAW, were prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women. The first volume, covering the period 1982-1985, was published in 1989. 3/ The second volume, covering the period 1986-1987, is scheduled to be published in 1990. Provision for the publication of

additional volumes will be made in forthcoming programme budgets. The Division also continued to publish summaries on the sessions and the developments of the work of the Committee in its information document, Women News. All promotional material concerning the Convention and the work of the Committee is distributed to the United Nations Information Centres. In addition to the normal recipients of United Nations documents, Committee documents are also sent directly to a growing list of international organizations, research institutions, libraries and national machineries set up in States to monitor and improve the status of women in their countries.

13. With regard to paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution 44/73 and in accordance with general recommendation No. 10 of the Committee, the Division for the Advancement of Women continued organizing training seminars at the regional and interregional levels to promote the status of women and to further the ratification and implementation of the Convention. The objectives of seminars held in Greece and Guatemala during 1989 and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in September 1990 responded to the Committee's general recommendations No. 6 on increasing publicity, and No. 10 on setting up national machinery to promote the widest use of the Convention at the national level and to assist Governments in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Convention. The Commission, by its resolution 34/6 and the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1990/17, urged the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations to support such initiatives.

14. In addition to training seminars, which are currently being scheduled for 1991 in several regions, resources from the regular programme of technical assistance are being used to provide on request advisory services in relation to the Convention to individual Governments. A mission was organized, for example, in June 1990 to assist the Government of Malta in considering ratification of the Convention.

15. Concerning paragraphs 6 and 12 of General Assembly resolution 44/73, full funding is provided in the Secretary-General's programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 for substantive and technical support to the Committee including the pre-session working group. The Division for the Advancement of Women continues to provide the Committee with relevant background information, including statistics, to facilitate its work, drawing additionally on the policy analyses prepared for the Commission on the Status of Women. The preparation of the requested update of the Committee's report on the achievements of States parties and obstacles encountered by them in implementing the Convention will be included in the draft programme budget for the period 1992-1993.

Notes

1/ See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievement of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

Notes (continued)

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38), annex.

3/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.1989.IV.4.

ANNEX I

List of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention as at 1 August 1990

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession
Afghanistan	14 August 1980	
Angola		17 September 1986 a/
Antigua and Barbuda		1 August 1989 a/
Argentina	17 July 1980	15 July 1985 b/
Australia	17 July 1980	28 July 1983 b/
Austria	17 July 1980	31 March 1982 b/
Bangladesh		6 November 1984 a/, b/
Barbados	24 July 1980	16 October 1980
Belgium	17 July 1980	10 July 1985 b/
Belize	7 March 1990	16 May 1990
Benin	11 November 1981	
Bhutan	17 July 1980	31 August 1981
Bolivia	30 May 1980	10 May 1990
Brazil	31 March 1981	1 February 1984 b/
Bulgaria	17 July 1980	8 February 1982 b/
Burkina Faso		14 October 1987 a/
Burundi	17 July 1980	
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	17 July 1980	4 February 1981 c/
Cameroon	6 June 1983	
Canada	17 July 1980	10 December 1981 b/
Cape Verde		5 December 1980 a/
Chile	17 July 1980 b/	7 December 1989
China	17 July 1980	4 November 1980 b/
Colombia	17 July 1980	19 January 1982
Congo	29 July 1980	26 July 1982
Costa Rica	17 July 1980	4 April 1986
Côte d'Ivoire	17 July 1980	
Cuba	6 March 1980	17 July 1980 b/
Cyprus		23 July 1985 a/, b/
Czechoslovakia	17 July 1980	16 February 1982 b/
Democratic Kampuchea		17 October 1980
Democratic Yemen		30 May 1984 a/, b/
Denmark	17 July 1980	21 April 1983
Dominica	15 September 1980	15 September 1980
Dominican Republic	17 July 1980	2 September 1982
Ecuador	17 July 1980	9 November 1981
Egypt	16 July 1980	18 September 1981 b/
El Salvador	14 November 1980	19 August 1981 b/
Equatorial Guinea		23 October 1984 a/

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession
Ethiopia	8 July 1980	10 September 1981 b/
Finland	17 July 1980	4 September 1986
France	17 July 1980	14 December 1983 b/, c/
Gabon	17 July 1980	21 January 1983
Gambia	29 July 1980	
German Democratic Republic	25 June 1980	9 July 1980 b/
Germany, Federal Republic of	17 July 1980	10 July 1985 b/
Ghana	17 July 1980	2 January 1986
Greece	2 March 1982	7 June 1983
Grenada	17 July 1980	
Guatemala	8 June 1981	12 August 1982
Guinea	17 July 1980	9 August 1982
Guinea-Bissau	17 July 1980	23 August 1985
Guyana	17 July 1980	17 July 1980
Haiti	17 July 1980	20 July 1981
Honduras	11 June 1980	3 March 1983
Hungary	6 June 1980	22 December 1980 b/
Iceland	24 July 1980	18 June 1985
India	30 July 1980 b/	
Indonesia	29 July 1980	13 September 1984 b/
Iraq		13 August 1986 a/, b/
Ireland		23 December 1985 a/, b/
Israel	17 July 1980	
Italy	17 July 1980 b/	10 June 1985
Jamaica	17 July 1980	19 October 1984 b/
Japan	17 July 1980	25 June 1985
Jordan	3 December 1980 b/	
Kenya		9 March 1984 a/
Lao People's Democratic Republic	17 July 1980	14 August 1981
Lesotho	17 July 1980	
Liberia		17 July 1984 a/
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		16 May 1989 a/, b/
Luxembourg	17 July 1980	2 February 1989 b/
Madagascar	17 July 1980	17 March 1989
Malawi		12 March 1987 a/, b/
Mali	5 February 1985	10 September 1985
Mauritius		9 July 1984 a/, b/
Mexico	17 July 1980 b/	23 March 1981
Mongolia	17 July 1980 b/	20 July 1981 b/
Netherlands	17 July 1980	
New Zealand	17 July 1980	10 January 1985 b/, c/
Nicaragua	17 July 1980	27 October 1981
Nigeria	23 April 1984	13 June 1985
Norway	17 July 1980	21 May 1981
Panama	26 June 1980	29 October 1981

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession
Paraguay		6 April 1987 a/
Peru	23 July 1981	13 September 1982
Philippines	15 July 1980	5 August 1981
Poland	29 May 1980	30 July 1980 b/
Portugal	24 April 1980	30 July 1980
Republic of Korea	25 May 1983	27 December 1984 b/
Romania	4 September 1980	7 January 1982 b/
Rwanda	1 May 1980	2 March 1981
Saint Kitts and Nevis		25 April 1985 a/
Saint Lucia		8 October 1982 a/
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		4 August 1981 a/
Senegal	29 July 1980	5 February 1985
Sierra Leone	21 September 1988	11 November 1988
Spain	17 July 1980	5 January 1984 b/
Sri Lanka	17 July 1980	5 October 1981
Sweden	7 March 1980	2 July 1980
Switzerland	23 January 1987	
Thailand		9 August 1985 a/, b/
Togo		26 September 1983 a/
Trinidad and Tobago	27 June 1985 b/	12 January 1990 b/
Tunisia	24 July 1980	20 September 1985 b/
Turkey		20 December 1985
Uganda	30 July 1980	22 July 1985
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	17 July 1980	12 March 1981 c/
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	17 July 1980 b/	23 January 1981 c/
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	22 July 1981 b/	7 April 1986 b/
United Republic of Tanzania	17 July 1980	20 August 1985
United States of America	17 July 1980	
Uruguay	30 March 1981	9 October 1981
Venezuela	17 July 1980	2 May 1983 b/
Viet Nam	29 July 1980	17 February 1982 b/
Yugoslavia	17 July 1980	26 February 1982
Zaire	17 July 1980	17 October 1986
Zambia	17 July 1980	21 June 1985

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a/ Accession.

b/ Declarations or reservations.

c/ Reservation subsequently withdrawn.

ANNEX II

Reservations made upon ratification from 1 August 1989 to 1 August 1990

Reservation made by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago upon ratification

[Original: English]

[12 January 1990]

With respect to Article 29 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago does not consider itself bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of that Article [concerning the settlement of disputes].

ANNEX III

Objections made from 1 August 1989 to 1 August 1990

Objection by Sweden to the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya upon accession

[Original: English]

[25 May 1990]

The Government of Sweden has examined the contents of the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, by which the accession "is subject to the general reservation that such accession cannot conflict with the laws on personal status derived from the Islamic Shariah", and has come to the conclusion that it is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (article 28, paragraph 2). The Government of Sweden therefore objects to this reservation.

A State by acceding to the Convention commits itself to adopt the measures required for the elimination of discrimination, in all its forms and manifestations, against women. A reservation by which a State party limits its responsibilities under the Convention by invoking general principles of national law may cast doubts on the commitments of the reserving State to the object and purpose of the Convention and, moreover, contribute to undermining the basis of international treaty law. It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become parties also are respected, as to object and purpose, by all parties.

This objection does not have the effect of preventing the Convention from entering into force between Sweden and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Objection by Finland to the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya upon accession

[Original: English]

[8 June 1990]

The Government of Finland has examined the contents of the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and considers the said reservation as being incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. The Government of Finland therefore enters its formal objection to this reservation.

This objection is not an obstacle to the entry into force of the said Convention between Finland and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Objection by the Federal Republic of Germany to the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya upon accession

[Original: English]

[20 June 1990]

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany rejects as incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention the reservation made by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with regard to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In relation to the Federal Republic of Germany, the above-mentioned reservation may not be invoked in support of a legal practice which does not pay due regard to the legal status accorded to women and children in the Federal Republic of Germany in conformity with the Convention.

This declaration is not to be interpreted as preventing the entry into force of the Convention between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Objection by Denmark to the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya upon accession

[Original: English]

[3 July 1990]

The Government of Denmark has taken note of the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya when acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In the view of the Government of Denmark this reservation is subject to the general principle of treaty interpretation according to which a party may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justification for failure to perform a treaty.

Objection by Norway to the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya upon accession

[Original: English]

[12 July 1990]

The Government of Norway has examined the contents of the reservation made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, by which the accession "is subject to the general reservation that such accession cannot conflict with the laws on personal status derived from the Islamic Shariah". The Norwegian Government has come to the conclusion that this reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (article 28, paragraph 2). The Government of Norway objects to the reservation.

The Norwegian Government will stress that, by acceding to the Convention, a State commits itself to adopt the measures required for the elimination of discrimination, in all forms and manifestations, against women. A reservation by which a State party limits its responsibilities under the Convention by invoking religious law (Shariah), which is subject to interpretation, modification, and selective application in different States adhering to Islamic principles, may create doubts about the commitments of the reserving State to the object and purpose of the Convention. It may also undermine the basis of international treaty law. All States have common interest in securing that all parties respect treaties to which they have chosen to become parties.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Items 12 and 82 of the
provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Note verbale dated 24 July 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 6 July 1990 from the Honourable Benjamin Mkapa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex) submitting resolution 691 (XXV) in the three working languages of the Economic Commission for Africa (see appendix I) together with the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation (see appendix II), adopted at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission and sixteenth meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development, for its presentation to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-fifth session.

* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 6 July 1990 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure to inform you that the twenty-fifth session of the Commission and sixteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development which has just ended in Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, adopted resolution 691 (XXV) recommending that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania submits the "African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation" to the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

As you are aware, this document was elaborated and adopted at the International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa which was held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 16 February 1990. I would like to emphasize that the initiative for the development of the Charter emanated from non-governmental organizations, grass-roots and African Governments, and was unanimously adopted by the 500 participants in the Conference drawn from a wide range of African people's organizations. All the participants were concerned about the serious deterioration in socio-economic conditions in African countries especially during the last decade of the 1980s. They recognized that the lack of progress in achieving developmental goals set by the countries partly arises from the lack of full appreciation of the role popular participation plays in the process of recovery and development. This concern led to the participants' adoption of the present Charter.

On behalf of the Chairman of the Conference, Professor Kighoma Malima, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission and Minister of State in the Office of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, I have the great pleasure to submit to you officially the "African Charter for Popular Participation in the Development and Transformation" in the three working languages of ECA, together with resolution 691 (XXV) referred to earlier.

(Signed) B. W. MKAPA, MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the United Republic of Tanzania

APPENDIX I

Resolution 691 (XXV) adopted at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission and sixteenth meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development at its 267th meeting on 19 May 1990

691 (XXV). The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution S-13/2 on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD),

Recalling also resolution 664 (XXIV) of the twenty-fourth session of the Commission and fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers on the International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa,

Aware of the fact that people have a fundamental right to participate fully in the making of policy decisions which affect their lives at all levels,

Noting with interest the decisions and recommendations arrived at by the International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa, held from 12 to 16 February 1990 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, and in particular resolution 2 of the same name whose operative paragraphs resolve inter alia that the eleventh day of February each year should be proclaimed Popular Participation Day in Africa,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for generously hosting the Conference;

2. Adopts the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation (Arusha 1990) as a statement of the strategy that should be incorporated in development policies adopted by African Governments with a view to promoting popular participation in development and by encouraging people and their organizations to undertake self-reliant development initiatives;

3. Recommends that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania should submit the present Charter to the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the fifty-second session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU and twenty-sixth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to disseminate the contents of the Charter widely, and to set up a mechanism for implementing and monitoring the follow-up of activities contained in the Charter at subregional and regional levels and submit regular annual reports to the ECA Conference of Ministers and appropriate organs of the Organization of African Unity.

267th meeting
19 May 1990

/...

APPENDIX II

African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation

(Arusha 1990)

PREAMBLE

1. The International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa was held, in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania from 12 to 16 February 1990, as a rare collaborative effort between African people's organizations, the African Governments, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations agencies, in the search for a collective understanding of the role of popular participation in the development and transformation of the region. It was also an occasion to articulate and give renewed focus to the concepts of democratic development, people's solidarity and creativity and self-reliance and to formulate policy recommendations for national Governments, popular organizations and the international community in order to strengthen participatory processes and patterns of development. It was the third in a series of major international conferences organized by the Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with the rest of the United Nations system to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD). It came as a sequel to the Abuja International Conference on Africa: The Challenge of Economic Recovery and Accelerated Development held in 1987, and the 1988 Khartoum International Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development. It is important to note that the initiative for this Conference came from the submission of the NGOs to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the mid-term review and assessment of the implementation of UN-PAAERD in September 1988.

2. The Conference was organized under the auspices of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Follow-up on the Implementation of the UN-PAAERD at the Regional Level (UN-IATF) and with the full support and warm hospitality of the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania. The ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning adopted resolution 664 (XXIV) at its twenty-fourth session in which it supported this Conference and urged member States of the Commission, the international community, NGOs and the United Nations system to support and actively participate in it. The Conference was attended by over 500 participants from a wide range of African people's organizations - including, in particular, non-governmental, grass-roots, peasant, women and youth organizations and associations, trade unions and others - as well as representatives of African Governments, agencies of the United Nations system, non-African non-governmental organizations, regional, subregional and intergovernmental organizations, bilateral donors, multilateral organizations as well as specialists, both from within and outside Africa. The conference was opened by H.E. Aki Hassan Mwinyi, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Opening statements were also made by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity,

the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity and representatives of the Non-Governmental Organizations, African Women's Organizations and the Pan African Youth Movement. The Conference would like to put on record its appreciation for the full support and warm hospitality of the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. The Conference was organized out of concern for the serious deterioration in the human and economic conditions in Africa in the decade of the 1980s, the recognition of the lack of progress in achieving popular participation and the lack of full appreciation of the role popular participation plays in the process of recovery and development.

4. The objectives of the Conference were to:

(a) Recognize the role of people's participation in Africa's recovery and development efforts;

(b) Sensitize national Governments and the international community to the dimensions, dynamics, processes and potential of a development approach rooted in popular initiatives and self-reliant efforts;

(c) Identify obstacles to people's participation in development and define appropriate approaches to the promotion of popular participation in policy formulation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes;

(d) Recommend actions to be taken by Governments, the United Nations system as well as the public and private donor agencies in building an enabling environment for authentic popular participation in the development process and encourage people and their organizations to undertake self-reliant development initiatives;

(e) Facilitate the exchange of information, experience and knowledge for mutual support among people and their organizations; and,

(f) Propose indicators for the monitoring of progress in facilitating people's participation in Africa's development.

5. We, the people, engaged in debate and dialogue on the issues involved over the span of five plenary sessions and 15 workshops during the five-day-long International Conference. In the light of our deliberations, we have decided to place on record our collective analysis, conclusions, policy recommendations and action proposals for the consideration of the people, the African Governments and the international community.

I. ASSERTING THE ROLE OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION

6. We are united in our conviction that the crisis currently engulfing Africa, is not only an economic crisis but also a human, legal, political and social crisis. It is a crisis of unprecedented and unacceptable proportions manifested not only in abysmal declines in economic indicators and trends, but more tragically and glaringly in the suffering, hardship and impoverishment of the vast majority of African people. At the same time, the political context of socio-economic development has been characterized, in many instances, by an over-centralization of power and impediments to the effective participation of the overwhelming majority of the people in social, political and economic development. As a result, the motivation of the majority of African people and their organizations to contribute their best to the development process, and to the betterment of their own well-being as well as their say in national development has been severely constrained and curtailed and their collective and individual creativity has been undervalued and underutilized.

7. We affirm that nations cannot be built without the popular support and full participation of the people, nor can the economic crisis be resolved and the human and economic conditions improved without the full and effective contribution, creativity and popular enthusiasm of the vast majority of the people. After all, it is to the people that the very benefits of development should and must accrue. We are convinced that neither can Africa's perpetual economic crisis be overcome, nor can a bright future for Africa and its people see the light of day unless the structures, pattern and political context of the process of socio-economic development are appropriately altered.

8. We, therefore, have no doubt that at the heart of Africa's development objectives must lie the ultimate and overriding goal of human-centred development that ensures the overall well-being of the people through sustained improvement in their living standards and the full and effective participation of the people in charting their development policies, programmes and processes and contributing to their realization. We furthermore observe that given the current world political and economic situation, Africa is becoming further marginalized in world affairs, both geo-politically and economically. African countries must realize that, more than ever before, their greatest resource is their people and that it is through their active and full participation that Africa can surmount the difficulties that lie ahead.

9. We are convinced that to achieve the above objective will require a redirection of resources to satisfy, in the first place, the critical needs of the people, to achieve economic and social justice and to emphasize self-reliance on the one hand, and, on the other hand, to empower the people to determine the direction and content of development, and to effectively contribute to the enhancement of production and productivity that are required. Bearing this in mind and having carefully analysed the structure of the African economies, the root causes of the repeated economic crisis and the strategies and programmes that have hitherto been applied to deal with them, we are convinced that Africa has no alternative but to urgently and immediately embark upon the task of transforming the structure of its economies to achieve long-term self-sustained growth and

development that is both human centred and participatory in nature. Furthermore, Africa's grave environmental and ecological crisis cannot be solved in the absence of a process of sustainable development which commands the full support and participation of the people. We believe in this context that the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) - which was endorsed by the twenty-fifth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held in July 1989, and by the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned countries held in Belgrade in September 1989 and by the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations which invited the international community, including multilateral, financial and development institutions, to consider the framework as a basis for constructive dialogue and fruitful consultation - offers the best framework for such an approach. We also wish in this regard to put on record our disapproval of all economic programmes, such as orthodox Structural Adjustment Programmes, which undermine the human condition and disregard the potential and role of popular participation in self-sustaining development.

10. In our sincere view, popular participation is both a means and an end. As an instrument of development, popular participation provides the driving force for collective commitment for the determination of people-based development processes and willingness by the people to undertake sacrifices and expend their social energies for its execution. As an end in itself, popular participation is the fundamental right of the people to fully and effectively participate in the determination of the decisions which affect their lives at all levels and at all times.

II. PROMOTING POPULAR PARTICIPATION

11. We believe strongly that popular participation is, in essence, the empowerment of the people to effectively involve themselves in creating the structures and in designing policies and programmes that serve the interests of all as well as to effectively contribute to the development process and share equitably in its benefits. Therefore, there must be an opening up of political process to accommodate freedom of opinions, tolerate differences, accept consensus on issues as well as ensure the effective participation of the people and their organizations and associations. This requires action on the part of all, first and foremost of the people themselves. But equally important are the actions of the State and the international community, to create the necessary conditions for such an empowerment and facilitate effective popular participation in societal and economic life. This requires that the political system evolve to allow for democracy and full participation by all sections of our societies.

12. In view of the critical contribution made by women to African societies and economies and the extreme subordination and discrimination suffered by women in Africa, it is the consensus of the participants that the attainment of equal rights by women in social, economic and political spheres must become a central feature of a democratic and participatory pattern of development. Further, it is the consensus of this conference that the attainment of women's full participation must

be given highest priority by society as a whole and African Governments in particular. This right should be fought for and defended by society, African Non-Governmental Organizations and Voluntary Development Organizations as well as by non-African Non-Governmental Organizations and Voluntary Development Organizations, Governments and the United Nations system in due recognition of the primary role being played by women now and on the course to recovery and transformation of Africa for better quality of life.

People's role

13. We want to emphasize the basic fact that the role of the people and their popular organizations is central to the realization of popular participation. They have to be fully involved, committed and indeed, seize the initiative. In this regard, it is essential that they establish independent people's organizations at various levels that are genuinely grass-root, voluntary, democratically administered and self-reliant and that are rooted in the tradition and culture of the society so as to ensure community empowerment and self-development. Consultative machinery at various levels should be established with governments on various aspects of democratic participation. It is crucial that the people and their popular organizations should develop links across national borders to promote co-operation and interrelationships on subregional, regional, South-South and South-North bases. This is necessary for sharing lessons of experience, developing people's solidarity and raising political consciousness on democratic participation.

14. In view of the vital and central role played by women in family well-being and maintenance, their special commitment to the survival, protection and development of children, as well as survival of society and their important role in the process of African recovery and reconstruction, special emphasis should be put by all the people in terms of eliminating biases particularly with respect to the reduction of the burden on women and taking positive action to ensure their full equality and effective participation in the development process.

15. Having said this, we must underscore that popular participation begins and must be earnestly practiced at the family level, because home is the base for development. It must also be practised at the work place, and in all organizations, and in all walks of life.

Role of African Governments

16. We strongly believe that popular participation is dependent on the nature of the State itself and ability of Government to respond to popular demand. Since African Governments have a critical role to play in the promotion of popular participation, they have to yield space to the people, without which popular participation will be difficult to achieve. Too often, the social base of power and decision-making are too narrow. Hence the urgent need to broaden these; to galvanize and tap the people's energy and commitment; and to promote political accountability by the State to the people. This makes it imperative that a new partnership between African Governments and the people in the common interest of societal and accelerated socio-economic development should be established without delay. This new partnership must not only recognize the importance of gender

issues but must take action to ensure women's involvement at all levels of decision-making. In particular Governments should set themselves specific targets for the appointment of women in senior policy and management posts in all sectors of government.

17. We believe that for people to participate meaningfully in their self-development, their freedom to express themselves and their freedom from fear must be guaranteed. This can only be assured through the extension and protection of people's basic human rights and we urge all Governments to vigorously implement the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the ILO Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

18. We also believe that one of the key conditions for ensuring people's participation throughout the continent is the bringing to an end of all wars and armed conflicts. The millions of African refugees and displaced persons are those with least opportunity to participate in the determination of their future. We urge Governments and all parties to Africa's conflicts, domestic and external, to seek peaceful means of resolving their differences and of establishing peace throughout Africa. In situations of armed conflicts, we uphold the right of civilians to food and other basic necessities and emphasize that the international community must exercise its moral authority to ensure that this right is protected.

19. We cannot overemphasize the benefits that can be reaped if, with the elimination of internal strife or inter-country conflicts, the resources spent on defence were to be redirected to productive activities and social services to the people. As rightly noted in the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation, "it is not difficult to imagine what it would mean to social welfare in Africa, with all its positive multiplier effects, if a saving can be achieved in defence spending and non-productive expenditures". We believe that our Governments can make such savings and we call upon them to do so urgently.

20. We are, however, aware of certain situations, particularly, for the front-line States which continue to face the destabilization acts of apartheid South Africa. This destabilization results in a debilitating diversion of resources that would otherwise have been used to meet critical basic needs of the people in these countries.

Role of the international community

21. We call on the international community to examine its own record on popular participation, and hereafter to support indigenous efforts which promote the emergence of a democratic environment and facilitate the people's effective participation and empowerment in the political life of their countries.

22. We also call on the United Nations system to intensify its effort to promote the application of justice in international economic relations, the defence of human rights, the maintenance of peace and the achievement of disarmament and to

assist African countries and people's organizations with the development of human and economic resources. We also call on the United Nations system to implement its own decision to have at least 30 per cent of senior positions held by women. Special efforts are needed to ensure that African women are adequately represented at senior levels in United Nations agencies, particularly those operating in Africa.

III. POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT

23. On the basis of the foregoing, we lay down the following basic strategies, modalities and actions for effective participation in development.

A. At the level of Governments

1. African Governments must adopt development strategies, approaches and programmes, the content and parameters of which are in line with the interest and aspirations of the people and which incorporate, rather than alienate, African values and economic, social, cultural, political and environmental realities.

2. We strongly urge African Governments to promote the formulation and implementation of national development programmes within the framework of the aforesaid aspirations, interests and realities, which develop as a result of a popular participatory process, and which aim at the transformation of the African economies to achieve self-reliant and self-sustaining people-centred development based on popular participation and democratic consensus.

3. In implementing these endogenous and people-centred development strategies, an enabling environment must be created to facilitate broad-based participation, on a decentralized basis, in the development process. Such an enabling environment is an essential pre-requisite for the stimulation of initiatives and creativity and for enhancing output and productivity by actions such as:

   (i) extending more economic power to the people through the equitable distribution of income, support for their productive capacity through enhanced access to productive inputs, such as land, credit, technology, etc., and in such a manner as to reflect the central role played by women in the economy;

   (ii) promoting mass literacy and skills training in particular and development of human resources in general;

   (iii) greater participation and consensus-building in the formulation and implementation of economic and social policies at all levels, including the identification and elimination of laws and bureaucratic procedures that pose obstacles to people's participation;

(iv) increasing employment opportunities for the rural and urban poor, expanding opportunities for them to contribute to the generation of output and enhanced productivity levels and creating better marketing conditions for the benefit of the producers; and,

(v) strengthening communication capacities for rural development, mass literacy, etc.

4. Small-scale indigenous entrepreneurship and producers co-operatives, as forms of productive participatory development, should be promoted and actions should be taken to increase their productivity.

5. Intensifying the efforts to achieve subregional and regional economic co-operation and integration and increased intra-African trade.

B. At the level of the people and their organizations

To foster participation and democratic development, the people and their organizations should:

1. Establish autonomous grass-roots organizations to promote participatory self-reliant development and increase the output and productivity of the masses.

2. Develop their capacity to participate effectively in debates on economic policy and development issues. This requires building people's capacity to formulate and analyse development programmes and approaches.

3. Promote education, literacy skill training and human resource development as a means of enhancing popular participation.

4. Shake off lethargy and traditional beliefs that are impediments to development, especially the customs and cultural practices that undermine the status of women in society, while recognizing and valuing those beliefs and practices that contribute to development. Rural and urban people's organizations, such as workers, peasants, women, youth, students etc., should be encouraged to initiate and implement strategies to strengthen their productive power and meet their basic needs.

5. Concerted efforts should be made to change prevailing attitudes towards the disabled so as to integrate them and bring them into the mainstream of development.

6. Create and enhance networks and collaborative relationships among peoples' organizations. This will have the effect of social involvement capable of inducing social change.

7. People's organizations should support strongly and participate in the efforts to promote effective subregional and regional economic co-operation and integration and intra-African trade.

C. At the level of the international community

We also call on the international community to support popular participation in Africa by:

1. Supporting African countries in their drive to internalize the development and transformation process. The IMF, World Bank and other bilateral and multilateral donors are urged to accept and support African initiatives to conceptualize, formulate and implement endogeneously designed development and transformation programmes.

2. Directing technical assistance programmes, first and foremost, to the strengthening of national capabilities for policy analysis and the design and implementation of economic reform and development programmes.

3. Fostering the democratization of development in African countries by supporting the decentralization of development processes, the active participation of the people and their organizations in the formulation of development strategies and economic reform programmes and open debate and consensus-building processes on development and reform issues.

4. Allowing for the release of resources for development on a participatory basis which will require the reversal of the net outflow of financial resources from Africa to the multilateral financial institutions and donor countries and their use for development purposes and for the benefit of the people.

5. Reducing drastically the stock of Africa's debt and debt-servicing obligations and providing a long-term period of moratorium on remaining debt-servicing obligations in order to release resources for financing development and transformation on a participatory basis.

6. Ensuring that the human dimension is central to adjustment programmes which must be compatible with the objectives and aspirations of the African people and with African realities and must be conceived and designed internally by African countries as part and parcel of the long-term objectives and framework of development and transformation.

7. Supporting African NGOs, grass-roots organizations, women's and youth organizations and trade unions in activities such as training, networking and other programme activities, as well as the documentation, and wide dissemination of their experiences.

D. At the level of NGOs and voluntary development organizations

The African and non-African NGOs and voluntary development organizations have an important role in supporting recovery and development efforts and popular participation initiatives and organizations in Africa. They are urged to take the following actions:

1. African NGOs and voluntary development organizations and their partners should be fully participatory, democratic and accountable.

2. African NGOs, voluntary development organizations and grass-roots organizations should develop and/or strengthen institutional structures at the regional, subregional and national levels, such as FAVDO, to bring them together.

3. African NGOs and voluntary development organizations should broaden the dissemination of successful African popular participation and grass-root experiences throughout the continent and the exchange of experience thereon to create a multiplier effect and sensitize policy-makers.

4. The International Conference on Popular Participation is clear in its recognition of the value of the contribution of grass-roots organizations and NGOs to Africa's development and demonstrates that effective dialogue between Governments, NGOs and grass-roots organizations is essential and valuable. This Conference recommends that national fora be established to enable honest and open dialogue between African Governments, grass-roots organizations and NGOs in order that the experience of grass-roots participatory development informs national policy-making.

5. Non-African NGOs and voluntary development organizations should give increased support and target their operations within the framework of national economic strategies and reform programmes aimed at transforming the structures of the African economies with a view to internalizing the development process and ensuring its sustainability with a particular focus on the human dimension and people's participation.

6. Non-African NGOs and voluntary development organizations should give due recognition to African NGOs and participatory, self-reliant development initiatives launched by African grass-roots organizations.

7. Non-African NGOs and voluntary development organizations should utilize African expertise to the maximum extent possible with regard to their development work in Africa and advocacy and campaigning work at the international level.

8. Non-African NGOs should strengthen their advocacy work internationally and in their home countries and with regard to bilateral donors and the multilateral system, closely monitoring their response to the African crisis and holding donor governments and agencies accountable for their policies and actions. In particular, non-African and African NGOs should formulate a programme of action geared towards their fullest participation in the end-term review of UN-PAAERD.

9. Co-operation and dialogue between African and Non-African NGOs and voluntary development organizations should be strengthened to increase the effectiveness of their interventions at the community level and the building of greater understanding on the part of international public opinion of the real causes of the African socio-economic crisis and the actions that are needed to deal with its root causes.

10. Non-African NGOs acknowledge that their influence as donors is often detrimental to ensuring genuine partnership with African NGOs, voluntary development organizations and grass-roots organizations and affects the enabling environment for popular participation. In that context co-operation in all its forms must be transparent and reflect African priorities.

11. African and non-African NGOs and voluntary development organizations should, in addition to their traditional humanitarian activities, increasingly provide support for the productive capacities of the African poor and for promoting environmentally sound patterns of local development.

E. At level of the media and communication

1. The national and regional media should make every effort to fight for and defend their freedom at all cost, and make special effort to champion the cause of popular participation and publicize activities and programmes thereof and generally provide access for the dissemination of information and education programmes on popular participation.

2. Combining their indigenous communication systems with appropriate use of modern low-cost communications technology, African communities and NGOs, voluntary development organizations and trade unions and other mass organizations must strengthen their communication capacities for development. Regional and national NGOs should participate in the assessment of Africa's Development Support Communication Needs to be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations Steering Committee and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on UN-PAAERD.

F. At the level of women's organizations

In ensuring that the participation of women in the development process is advanced and strengthened, popular women's organizations should:

1. Continue to strengthen their capacity as builders of confidence among women.

2. Strive for the attainment of policies and programmes that reflect and recognize women's roles as producers, mothers, active community mobilizers and custodians of culture.

3. Work to ensure the full understanding of men, in particular, and the society, in general, of women's role in the recovery and transformation of Africa so that men and women together might articulate and pursue appropriate courses of action.

4. Implement measures to reduce the burden carried by women through: (a) advocating to the society at large, including central and local government levels, the importance of task sharing in the home and community, especially in the areas of water and wood fetching, child

rearing etc.; (b) promoting the establishment and proper functioning of community-based day care centres in all communities; and, (c) striving to attain economic equality by advocating the rights of women to land and greater access to credit.

5. Women's organizations should be democratic, autonomous and accountable organizations.

G. At the level of organized labour

Trade Unions should:

1. Be democratic, voluntary, autonomous and accountable organizations.

2. Initiate, animate and promote mass literacy and training programmes.

3. Organize and mobilize rural workers in accordance with ILO Convention 141, which African Governments are strongly urged to ratify.

4. Defend trade union rights, in particular the right to strike.

5. Assist in the formation of workers' co-operatives.

6. Assist in organizing the unemployed for productive activities, such as the establishment of small- and medium-scale enterprises.

7. Give special attention to effective and democratic participation of women members at all levels of trade unions.

8. Promote work place democracy through the call for the protection of workers' rights to freedom of association, collective bargaining and participatory management.

H. At the level of youth and students and their organizations

Considering the centrality of the youth and students in Africa's population and the recovery and development process, the following actions should be taken:

1. Preparation and adoption of an African Charter on Youth and Student Rights to include the right to organize, education, employment and free and public expression.

2. The full democratic participation of youth and students in African society requires immediate steps by Government, popular organizations, parents and the youth themselves to eliminate the major impediments to youth participation, such as frequent bans on youth and student organizations, police brutality against unarmed protesting students, detention and harassment on campuses, dismissal from studies and the frequent and arbitrary closure of educational institutions.

3. Youth, students, Governments and the international community must join forces urgently to combat growing drug trafficking and drug abuse. We also urge Governments to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Illicit Trafficking of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

4. The advancement of youth participation in development also requires the protection of Africa's minors against forced military service, whether in national or insurgent/rebel groups.

5. African youth and students should organize national autonomous associations to participate in and contribute to development activities and programmes such as literacy, reafforestation, agriculture and environmental protection.

6. Student and youth organizations must also strive to be democratic, accountable, voluntary and autonomous and should co-ordinate their activities with workers', women's and peasant organizations.

7. National youth and student organizations should take urgent steps to strengthen and further democratize existing pan-African youth and student organizations to make them play their roles more effectively in Africa's development process.

IV. MONITORING POPULAR PARTICIPATION

24. We proclaim the urgent necessity to involve the people in monitoring popular participation in Africa on the basis of agreed indicators and we propose the use of the following indicators, which are not necessarily exhaustive, for measuring the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Charter.

1. The literacy rate, which is an index of the capacity for mass participation in public debate, decision-making and general development processes.

2. Freedom of association, especially political association, and presence of democratic institutions, such as political parties, trade unions, people's grass-roots organizations and professional associations, and the guarantee of constitutional rights.

3. Representation of the people and their organizations in national bodies.

4. The rule of law and social and economic justice, including equitable distribution of income and the creation of full employment opportunities.

5. Protection of the ecological, human and legal environment.

6. Press and media freedom to facilitate public debate on major issues.

7. Number and scope of grass-roots organizations with effective participation in development activities, producers and consumers co-operatives and community projects.

8. Extent of implementation of the Abuja Declaration on Women (1989) in each country.

9. Political accountability of leadership at all levels measured by the use of checks and balances.

10. Decentralization of decision-making processes and institutions.

25. We are convinced of the imperative necessity to follow-up and monitor the implementation of this Charter and to report periodically thereon on progress achieved as well as problems encountered. We accordingly recommend that at the national level a follow-up mechanism on which representatives at high level of Government, trade unions, women's organizations, NGOs, voluntary development organizations, grass-roots and youth and student organizations will be members.

26. At the regional level, we propose a joint OAU/ECA Regional Monitoring Machinery on which also, in addition to representatives of these two organizations will be representatives of the network of organizations named above. This regional monitoring group will submit biennial progress reports on the implementation of the Charter to the ECA Conference of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU.

CONCLUSION

27. This Conference has taken place during a period when the world continues to witness tumultuous changes in Eastern Europe. Even more dramatically, this Conference has taken place during the very week when Nelson Mandela's release has exhilarated all of Africa, and galvanized the international community.

28. There is an inescapable thread of continuity between those events and our Conference; it is the power of people to effect momentous change. At no other time in the post-war period has popular participation had so astonishing and profound an impact.

29. History and experience both teach that this world never works in compartments. The forces of freedom and decmocracy are contagious. Inevitably, and irresistibly, popular participation will have a vital role to play on the continent of Africa, and play that role we will.

30. It is manifestly unacceptable that development and transformation in Africa can proceed without the full participation of its people. It is manifestly unacceptable that the people and their organizations be excluded from the decision-making process. It is manifestly unacceptable that popular participation be seen as anything less than the centerpiece in the struggle to achieve economic and social justice for all.

31. In promoting popular participation, it is necessary to recognize that a new partnership and compact must be forged among all the ACTORS in the process of social, political and economic change. Without this collective commitment, popular participation is neither possible nor capable of producing results. We, therefore, pledge to work together in this new partnership to promote full and effective participation by the masses together with Governments in the recovery and development process in Africa.

32. We, the people here assembled, have no illusion that the Charter will be embraced overnight by all of those to whom it is directed. But we are confident that this document is an indispensable step on the road to everything we would wish for the people of Africa.

Done at Arusha, The United
Republic of Tanzania
16 February 1990

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A

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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Conventional disarmament on a regional scale

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	2
II.	REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS	3
	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	3
	Chile	4
	Mexico	5
	Pakistan	5
	Qatar	7
	Senegal	9

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1989, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/116 S entitled "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale", in which it welcomed the initiatives towards arms limitation and disarmament undertaken jointly or unilaterally by some countries at the regional and subregional levels, as well as the systematic implementation of confidence-building measures, limitations of the acquisition of conventional weapons and the reduction of military spending, with a view to achieving equal and undiminished security at a lower level of armaments, as well as to allocating the resources thus released to the social and economic development of the people of all countries, particularly the developing countries; expressed its firm support for the United Nations system, and for the Secretary-General in particular, in the efforts to find solutions to conflict situations, thereby reaffirming a fundamental role of the United Nations in promoting peace and disarmament, and for the strict observance of the principles and norms embodied in the Charter of the United Nations; urged all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States and militarily significant States, to intensify their efforts in the negotiation and implementation, in appropriate forums, of regional and subregional disarmament and arms limitation measures, taking into account their particular responsibility in that matter and the principle of equal and undiminished security for all parties, aimed at enhancing international peace and security; appealed to all States to facilitate the progress of regional disarmament, refraining from any action, including the use or threat of use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and intervention or interference in internal affairs of States, that might hinder the achievement of this objective; invited all Member States to convey to the Secretary-General their views on ways and means aimed at strengthening regional and subregional disarmament and arms limitation efforts, taking into account recent developments that had taken place in this sphere; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution, taking into consideration the views expressed by Member States.

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the resolution, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 16 February 1990, requested all Member States to submit by July 1990 their views on ways and means aimed at strengthening regional and subregional disarmament and arms limitation efforts, taking into account recent developments that have taken place in this sphere. To date, the Secretary-General has received replies from the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Mexico, Pakistan, Qatar and Senegal. Other replies will be published as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[14 August 1990]

1. The Byelorussian SSR supported General Assembly resolution 44/116 S, entitled "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale", in which the Assembly, inter alia, welcomed the initiatives towards arms limitation and disarmament undertaken at the regional and subregional levels, as well as the implementation of confidence-building measures, limitations of the acquisition of conventional weapons and the reduction of military spending.

2. The Byelorussian SSR is convinced that the most effective progress towards the goal of disarmament can be achieved by combining global and regional approaches and by making use of the complementary opportunities offered at both levels.

3. In this regard, the Byelorussian SSR believes that the potential for a regional approach to conventional disarmament should not be diminished but, on the contrary, should be actively utilized. At present, the new and positive trends which are emerging and becoming consolidated at the global level, and the progress which has been and is currently being made in the settlement of a number of regional conflicts, favour the transition to regional disarmament and arms limitation measures on a significant scale.

4. In our view, the range of measures which could be successfully carried out at the regional and subregional levels is correctly outlined in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 44/116 S. Immediate progress towards the implementation of such measures in regions which are hotbeds of tension, would be particularly important. The timely adoption of some of those measures in regions where conflicts could flare up would be in keeping with the emergence of the new preventive role of diplomacy.

5. The development and implementation of disarmament measures on a regional scale should, undoubtedly, take account of the specific features of each region and also the opinions of all interested parties. It is also important that all States, including States situated outside a specific region, should help to create favourable conditions for the implementation of regional disarmament measures.

6. Notwithstanding the specific features of individual regions, we believe that the possibilities for serious disarmament, arms limitation and confidence-building measures will be significantly improved if regions take account of the experience which has been and is being acquired by other regions, in the development and implementation of such measures. In particular, substantial and positive experience in that area has been accumulated by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe; confidence-building measures in the military sphere have been carried out in Europe for a number of years and, at present, talks are being held on a new generation of such measures, and on the reduction of armed forces and arms in Europe.

7. The Byelorussian SSR considers the provision of General Assembly resolution 44/116 S on the provision of assistance by the United Nations to States that might request it, with a view to establishing disarmament measures at the regional and subregional levels, to be of vital importance. That provision is in keeping with our conviction of the need to enhance the specific role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, including disarmament on a regional scale.

8. We believe that, with the agreement of the States of a region, the United Nations could also perform a useful function in the course of the implementation of agreements, for instance by monitoring their implementation and carrying out verification measures.

9. The new role of the United Nations in regional disarmament could be carried out successfully in conjunction with United Nations peace-keeping operations in a specific region.

10. In the opinion of the Byelorussian SSR, the objective of disarmament at the regional and subregional levels could be furthered by the holding at United Nations regional centres of a series of seminars devoted to that issue. Examples of successful activities in that area already exist.

11. A major impetus to the practical start of arms limitation and disarmament on a regional scale and an important independent factor in the strengthening of security and stability, would be the transition to purely defensive military concepts and structures for the armed forces, and to the principle of reasonable defence sufficiency. Naturally, the specific nature of that kind of transformation will be determined by the characteristic features of each region.

CHILE

[Original: Spanish]

[11 September 1990]

Aware of the importance of the issue, the Government of Chile has promoted mechanisms to facilitate a dialogue and achieve a better balance between Latin American armed forces, especially those of neighbouring countries, since it believes that such activities constitute a preliminary and necessary stage in the achievement of conventional disarmament on a regional scale. In April 1990, the fifteenth Inter-American Naval Conference was held at Viña del Mar. Likewise, meetings are periodically held with the chiefs of staff of the armed forces of Argentina and Peru with a view to fostering co-operation and understanding in their specific areas of competence. The inclusion of Chile in the international COSPAS-SARSAT programme and the annual holding of the International Air Show in Chile are further measures which should contribute to the process of conventional disarmament on a regional scale.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[12 July 1990]

1. While the priority of nuclear disarmament and the primary responsibility of nuclear-weapon and militarily significant States in the context of the final objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control must not be overlooked, conventional disarmament measures on a regional scale could prove to be definite steps towards achieving that objective.

2. In this context, conventional disarmament measures in regions where large quantities of weapons are concentrated are particularly important.

3. In Latin America, conventional disarmament measures would complement the nuclear-weapon-free zone, thereby enhancing the security of all States in the region.

4. In order to strengthen peace and security in different regions of the world through conventional arms limitation and reduction, States in the various geographical areas must make every effort to reach bilateral or multilateral agreements which pursue that objective.

5. The different aspects of conventional disarmament on a regional scale must be considered in both bilateral and multilateral consultations and conferences among countries in the various areas who are interested in achieving that goal.

PAKISTAN

[Original: English]

[25 June 1990]

1. The efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, elimination of the dangers of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits.

2. The essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Unfortunately the goals and objectives accepted at the session are nowhere near achievement.

3. While some hope for meaningful progress in the field of disarmament at the global level has been engendered in recent years through the negotiations on some disarmament issues between the two super-Powers, it is the view of Pakistan that sustained efforts are needed within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament

and under the umbrella of the United Nations to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues.

4. An important dimension of the global security environment that demands attention and redress is the danger posed to the security of smaller States by the militarization and aggressive postures of larger States aimed at exercising regional domination and hegemony.

5. Pakistan has for a number of years advocated a regional approach to nuclear and conventional disarmament. Pakistan believes that it is only through such an approach that the diverse situations and perspectives of particular regions, which may not be applicable globally, can be given appropriate attention and consideration with a view to the evolution of remedial measures. Such an approach can also take into account the relationships among the regional countries as well as the interaction between them and external powers so that the legitimate security concerns of all can be addressed.

6. In the South Asian context, Pakistan looks forward to promoting a regional and bilateral framework of disarmament, security and confidence-building measures. Pakistan's proposals for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, mutual inspection of nuclear facilities, simultaneous accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, joint declaration regarding non-acquisition or manufacture of nuclear weapons, mutual acceptance of international safeguards, a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban treaty, mutually acceptable, equitable and balanced reduction of armed forces ensuring equal and undiminished security for all States, restraint over military expenditures, etc. are all designed to promote disarmament, confidence-building and regional security. Pakistan is encouraged by its agreement with India not to attack each other's nuclear facilities as an important first step towards achieving those objectives.

7. A collective endeavour by countries at the regional level to promote disarmament and enhance security at the lowest possible levels of armaments is an indispensable corollary to their advocacy of global disarmament. Pakistan believes that a regional approach would effectively promote nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and would strengthen the security of smaller countries, thus contributing to international peace and security. The regional approach to disarmament complements efforts for global disarmament and can, therefore, be pursued simultaneously with such efforts.

8. Pakistan believes that the following steps should be taken to promote the regional approach to disarmament:

(a) The United Nations should lend its support to the evolution of confidence-building measures at the regional level. Initiatives by regional States in this field as well as for disarmament, non-proliferation and security should be encouraged and supported;

(b) Outstanding differences or disputes among regional States should be resolved by peaceful means in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in order to promote the process of regional disarmament;

(c) Agreements should be concluded for mutual restraint in arms acquisition, non-proliferation and confidence-building measures. Policies of interference, intervention, domination, coercion or the use or threat of use of force in any form whatsoever should be renounced;

(d) The regional States should endeavour to establish a mutually acceptable military equilibrium among themselves. The measures to create regional balance could include creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones, renunciation of the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, radiological weapons and certain types of advanced weapons, and agreed ceilings on armed forces, conventional weapons and military expenditures;

(e) Institutions and mechanisms should be created which can facilitate disarmament and security initiatives at the regional level;

(f) Once a degree of mutual confidence has been achieved, the regional States may evolve joint and co-ordinated positions regarding external threats to the region, including the presence of foreign forces in the vicinity;

(g) A study should be conducted by the Secretary-General with the help of a group of governmental experts on the regional approach to disarmament, specifically analysing threats to the security of small States and suggesting remedial measures.

QATAR

[Original: Arabic]

[27 June 1990]

1. Qatar reiterates its hope for disarmament, the reduction of international tension, respect for free self-determination and national independence and the settlement of conflicts on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations. Disarmament, development and the strengthening of international peace and security are all interconnected.

2. Qatar notes with apprehension the qualitative and quantitative level of development reached by conventional weapons and feels that it has become necessary to consider taking steps to limit and gradually reduce the number of such weapons while working towards general and complete disarmament. In this regard, it considers that the nuclear Powers, States members of military alliances and those possessing large arsenals of conventional weapons all bear a special responsibility; these countries should carry out large-scale initial reductions. Qatar reaffirms that disarmament measures must guarantee the right of all countries to security on the basis of stringent observation of the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations. However, it should be clearly understood that the World Disarmament Campaign should in no way be considered an instrument with which to challenge the security interests of Governments or to call those interests into doubt. On the contrary, in a world of sovereign States, each State has an incontestable right to ensure its own security.

3. Qatar affirms that regional and/or subregional conventional disarmament measures that take into account the characteristics of each region or subregion and are agreed to by some or all countries should help to strengthen international peace and security.

4. Qatar condemns the utilization of scientific and technological advances in the manufacture of new weapons of mass destruction, both nuclear and non-nuclear, as well as of conventional weapons of great destructive capacity. It urges that a stop should be put to such practices and that scientific and technological progress should be used solely for the good of mankind.

5. In the light of the foregoing, Qatar stresses the following points:

(a) Nuclear co-operation should be halted between the United States and other members of NATO, on the one hand, and Israel and racist South Africa, on the other;

(b) Negotiations should be started to limit and reduce the number of conventional weapons; the principal role in such negotiations would fall to the nuclear Powers and to members of military alliances and parties to defence treaties, since they possess the largest arsenals of such weapons;

(c) There should be support for disarmament measures at the regional and subregional levels in furtherance of full and comprehensive disarmament, taking into account the particular characteristics of the regions and subregions and without detracting from the right of States to organize their own legitimate self-defence;

(d) All the Arab countries are faced with the possibility of nuclear annihilation by Israel, which has developed its own nuclear capability;

(e) An agreement or agreements should be concluded which tangibly reflect the principle contained in the Charter of the United Nations of refraining from the use of force;

(f) There must be full and comprehensive disarmament, since that is the broadest possible guarantee of world peace;

(g) Qatar is of the opinion that the current international political climate favours the achievement of positive and important results, especially in the light of recent events.

SENEGAL

[Original: French]

[27 August 1990]

1. The Government of Senegal remains convinced of the importance that should be attached to conventional disarmament at the regional level.

2. In this connection, it firmly believes that one way of promoting the realization of this important objective could be by deciding, within the framework of the appropriate United Nations bodies, on precise indicators that would make it possible to determine the level of militarization of the countries concerned, while at the same time taking due account of their stage of development.

3. Such indicators could be defined, for example, in terms of:

(a) The ratio between the number of troops and the population;

(b) The share of defence in the general budgets of States;

(c) The percentage of a country's gross national product spent on the armed forces.

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Revenues derived from Palestine refugee properties

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 44/47 H of 8 December 1989, entitled "Revenues derived from Palestine refugee properties", the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection and administration of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel and to establish a fund for the receipt of income derived therefrom, on behalf of the rightful owners;
>
> "2. Calls once more upon Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;
>
> "3. Calls upon the Governments of all the other Member States concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel, which would assist the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;
>
> "4. Deplores Israel's refusal to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of the resolutions on the question;

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* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 15 February 1990, in accordance with established procedure, the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 44/47 A to K were brought to the attention of the Chairman of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine.

3. On 23 February 1990, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Government of Israel those resolutions, including resolution 44/47 H, and requested Israel to inform him by 30 June 1990 of any steps it had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of those resolutions.

4. Also on the same date, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to all other Member States, drawing their attention to the relevant provisions of resolutions 44/47 A to K, including paragraph 3 of resolution 44/47 H, and requesting information by 30 June 1990 concerning any action taken or envisaged in relation to their implementation.

5. A reply dated 29 June 1990 was received from Israel, covering various aspects of resolutions 44/47 A to K. In the portion of the reply relating to resolution 44/47 H, "Revenues derived from Palestine refugee properties", the text read as follows:

"Resolution 43/57 H demonstrates its sponsors' misuse of the General Assembly for the goals of the ongoing propaganda campaign against Israel. Israel's position on this resolution has been set out in statements by Israel's representative to the Special Political Committee on 10 November 1981 (A/SPC/36/SR.28), on 15 November 1985 (A/SPC/40/SR.34), on 28 October 1986 (A/SPC/41/SR.14) and in the Report of the Secretary-General (A/44/431) dated 11 August 1989.

"There is no legal basis for taking the steps proposed by this resolution. Property rights within the borders of a sovereign State are exclusively subject to the domestic laws of that state. The right of states to regulate and dispose of property within their territory (and the income derived from that property) is a generally accepted principle.

"Significantly, the sponsors of this resolution have not suggested at any time that similar steps be taken regarding the confiscated Jewish property in Arab countries. As a result of the 1948 War, approximately 800,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries were resettled in Israel. The property left behind by these Jewish refugees (estimated to be worth billions of dollars) was expropriated by the Governments of the Arab countries in which they lived. There can be no difference in law, justice or equity between the claims of Arab and Jewish property owners. By doing so, the sponsors of resolution 44/47 H are suggesting that Israel's sovereignty is limited or restricted by some provision that does not apply to other Member States of the United Nations."

6. At the time of preparation of this report, no reply had been received from any other Member State in relation to the implementation of resolution 44/47 H.